

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 03026 01 OF 02 232227Z
ACTION CA-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 VO-03 SCS-06 PPTE-00 MMO-04
/027 W

-----007109 232302Z /63

P 231836Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3473

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 03026

FOR: SCA, VO, SCS, PPT, M/MO, EUR/EX

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: CGEN, APER, ABUD

REF: STATE 16438, 19521, 25833

1. IMMIGRANT VISAS:

AS ANTICIPATED IN THE 1977 REPORT, THE EMBASSY IS RECEIVING A STEADY INCREASING NUMBER OF WESTERN HEMISPHER RELATIVE PREFERENCE PETITIONS. IN ADDITION, THE NUMBER OF PRELIMINARY APPLICATIONS FROM BRITISH CITIZENS FOR IMMIGRANT VISA STATUS HAS SHOT FORWARD AT AN UNPRECEDENTED RATE.

MOREOVER, THE EMBASSY ALSO PROCESSES MANY APPLICATIONS FROM CITIZENS OF THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST WHO PREFER NOT TO PURSUE THEIR EMIGRATION IN THEIR HOME COUNTRY. NOT ALL PROSPECTIVE APPLICANTS WILL QUALIFY FOR IMMIGRANT STATUS BECAUSE THEY DO NOT HAVE THE UNITED STATES RELATIVES TO PETITION IN THEIR BEHALF OR SKILLS TO QUALIFY THEM FOR A LABOR CERTIFICATION AS MANY OF THESE APPLICATIONS ARE FROM YOUNG PEOPLE UNDER 25 YEARS OF AGE. NEVERTHELESS, THE NUMBER OF LABOR CERTIFICATIONS RECEIVED IN BEHALF OF SKILLED FACTORY WORKERS, THE NUMBER OF THOSE WHO QUALIFY UNDER THE EW SCHEDULE

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 LONDON 03026 01 OF 02 232227Z

A, GROUP IV VISA CATEGORY, AND THE OVERALL NUMBER OF RELATIVE PETITIONS RECEIVED, HAVE INCREASED TO THE EXTENT THAT WE CAN PREDICT A SIGNIFICANT RISE IN THE NUMBER OF THE EMBASSY'S IMMIGRANT VISA REGISTRANTS.

2. NONIMMIGRANT VISAS:

TOTAL NIV CASES INCREASED IN FY-L977 BY 12 PERCENT

AFTER A 20 PERCENT INCREASE IN FY-1976. DURING THE FIRST FOUR MONTHS OF FY-1978 THERE HAS BEEN AN INCREASE OF 35 PERCENT. THIS INCREASE IS DUE TO A NUMBER OF FACTORS, PRIMARILY LOWER AIR FARES AND A BETTER EXCHANGE RATE. LOWER AIR FARES WHICH ARE NOW ONLY TO NEW YORK CITY MAY BE EXTENDED TO FLIGHTS TO A VARIETY OF OTHER CITIES INCLUDING THE WEST COAST WHERE A LARGE NUMBER OF U.K. CITIZENS ALREADY GO. CONSIDERING THESE FACTORS WE EXPECT THE 35 PER CENT INCREASE TO HOLD FOR THE BALANCE OF FY-1978 AND TO DECLINE TO A 25 PER CENT INCREASE IN FY-1979 AND FY-1980. (WE HAVE A VISCERAL FEELING THAT THE HIGHER RATE CANNOT CONTINUE INDEFINITELY.) IN ADDITION TO THIS GENERAL INCREASE IN TRAVEL, THE POST HAS OBSERVED A SHARPER INCREASE IN BUSINESS TRAVEL TO THE UNITED STATES THAN IN OVERALL TRAVEL. THE INCREASE IN ISSUANCE OF MANY BUSINESS CATEGORIES HAS BEEN MUCH HIGHER THAN OVERALL NIV ISSUANCE. FOR EXAMPLE; FROM CY-1973 TO CY-1977 THE ISSUANCE OF B-1 VISAS INCREASED BY ABOUT 180 PER CENT, B-1/B-2 VISAS BY ABOUT 37 PER CENT, E VISAS BY ABOUT 130 PER CENT AND L-1 VISAS BY ABOUT 120 PER CENT. THESE VISAS ARE GENERALLY MORE DIFFICULT AND REQUIRE MORE TIME TO PROCESS. THE POST HAS REQUESTED CLARIFICATION ON B-L ELIGIBILITY FROM THE DEPARTMENT AS THERE HAS BEEN A UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 LONDON 03026 01 OF 02 232227Z

SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN NUMBER OF "GRAY" AREA CASES.

3. CONSIDERING THE PRESENT STAFFING LEVEL AND THE NUMBER OF P.I.T.'S AUTHORIZED

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PAGE 01 LONDON 03026 02 OF 02 232227Z
ACTION CA-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 VO-03 SCS-06 PPTE-00 MMO-04
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UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 LONDON 03026

BY THE DEPARTMENT, THE STAFF WILL HAVE TO WORK A
SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF OVERTIME HOURS TO MEET FY-1978
DEMAND.

4. SPECIAL CONSULAR SERVICES:

THE DECLINE IN ARRESTS OVER PREVIOUS SUBMISSIONS IS
ILLUSORY AND RESULTS FROM A CORRECTION OF THE MANNER IN
WHICH ARREST STATISTICS WERE COUNTED. IN PREVIOUS SUB-
MISSIONS EVERY ACTION (VISIT, LETTER, REPORT, ETC.) RE-
LATING TO AN ARREST WAS COUNTED. IN FACT WITH MONTHLY
VISITATION OF PRISONERS BEGUN DURING FY-1977 THE AMOUNT
OF MANHOURS SPENT ON ARRESTS HAS CONSIDERABLY INCREASED.
THE EQUIVALENT OF ONE AVAILABLE MAN YEAR (1750 HOURS) I
SPENT IN MONTHLY VISITATIONS. THE NUMBER OF ARRESTS
NOW GIVEN IS THE ACTUAL NUMBER OF USC'S ARRESTED DURING
THE REPORTING PERIOD FOR WHOM SOME ACTION WAS TAKEN.

5. THE INCREASE IN NOTARIAL SERVICES SHOWN FOR FY-1977
AND PROJECTED FOR FY-1979 TAKES INTO ACCOUNT THAT THEY
INCLUDE ELECTION YEARS. THE SCS STATISTICS REMAIN
THE LEAST SATISFACTORY FOR THE PURPOSE OF SHOWING TRUE
WORKLOAD. IN PARTICULAR, THE TIME SPENT ON THE
SERVICES SHOWN IN ITEM 37 (WELFARE/WHEREABOUTS) IS
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PAGE 02 LONDON 03026 02 OF 02 232227Z

ROUGHLY THAT SPENT ON ITEM 40 (OTHER AGENCY SERVICES)
AND CONSIDERABLY MORE THAN THAT SPENT ON ITEM 36
(NOTARIALS), YET THE NUMERICAL RELATIONSHIP OF SERVICES
GIVES NO SUCH INDICATION.

6. LIKEWISE NOT ACCOUNTABLE IN THE STATISTICS IS THE
INCREASED EFFORT AT IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF OUR SCS
SERVICES TO THE PUBLIC. IN THIS AREA IN PARTICULAR
IMPROVEMENT IN THE QUALITY OF SERVICES CAN BE
OBTAINED ONLY THROUGH INCREASED MANHOURS AS IT IS
THE DEGREE OF ATTENTIVENESS AND RESPONSIVENESS OF
OFFICERS AND FSL'S ALIKE IN DEALING WITH THE PUBLIC
THAT IMPROVES THE QUALITY OF SCS WORK.

7. ANY DIMUNITION IN US TOURISTS TO BRITAIN RESULTING

FROM THE STRENGTHENING OF THE POUND WILL BE MORE THAN MADE UP FOR BY THE AVAILABILITY THIS YEAR OF CHEAP TRANSATLANTIC FARES. THIS SAME PHENOMENON WHICH IS INCREASING THE DEMAND FOR NIV'S WILL ALSO RESULT IN MORE US CITIZENS TRAVELLING TO BRITAIN, MANY MORE OF THEM IN MARGINAL CIRCUMSTANCES AND MORE LIKELY TO REQUIRE ASSISTANCE. HERE AS ELSEWHERE CITIZENS ARE EXPECTING MORE ASSISTANCE AND INFORMATION FROM THEIR CONSULAR REPRESENTATIVES AND THE ONLY WAY TO MEET THEIR EXPECTATIONS IS THROUGH INCREASED MANHOURS. UNLIKE VISA OR PASSPORT SERVICES WHICH ARE SUSCEPTIBLE TO IMPROVEMENT THROUGH MANAGERIAL EFFICIENCY, THE QUALITY OF PROTECTION AND WELFARE WORK INCREASES PRIMARILY THROUGH THE INVESTMENT OF TIME SPENT SPEAKING WITH THE PUBLIC AND DEALING WITH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND OTHER THIRD PARTIES ON THEIR BEHALF.

8. CITIZENSHIP AND PASSPORT SERVICES:
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PAGE 03 LONDON 03026 02 OF 02 232227Z

THE DECREASE IN AMERICANS REGISTERED (ITEM 73) OVER THE LAST SUBMISSION RESULTS FROM EXTENSIVE CULLING OF OUT-OF-DATE REGISTRATIONS.

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